

THE MANDATES QUESTION.

The Council of the League of Nations meeting at San Sebastian has taken some important decisions about Mandates. In the first place they recognised that under the Peace Treaty it is for the Principal Allied and Associated Powers to choose the Mandatory Powers and they therefore decided to invite the Principal Allied and Associated Powers to make an official declaration as to who the Mandatory Powers are to be and the frontiers of the territories for which they are to be responsible. In the second place the Council decided that while it would have the right under paragraph 8 of Article 22 to draw up the Mandates to be applied to each of these territories on its own initiative and at once, it would for many good reasons be wiser to ask the Principal Allied and Associated Powers for any propositions they may have to make as to the terms of the Mandates. The Council proposes when it has received the declaration of the Allies, and any proposals they have to make, to take the necessary steps to bring the Mandates into force at the earliest possible date.

At the same time the Council requested the Secretary General to prepare for consideration at an early date a scheme for the permanent Mandates Commission which is to be created in accordance with the Covenant "to receive and examine the annual reports of the Mandatories and to advise the Council on all matters relating to the observance of the Mandates". As the Mandates Commission will probably have many functions besides those of simple supervision of the execution of the Mandates, it is evident that this Commission must include representatives of the Mandatory Powers, but the Council decided that in order to preserve its character of impartiality the majority of its members should belong to non-Mandatory states.

The public is apt to misunderstand the difference between territories subject to Mandates and regular colonies or protectorates and to regard the former as practically equivalent to the latter/

latter. The conditions of territories subject to Mandates differ, however, from colonies and protectorates in various ways:-

The Mandate must be exercised not exclusively for the benefit of the Mandatory Power and with regard to the latter's interests, but for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Mandated area, in accordance with the principles laid down in the Covenant and to the satisfaction of the League of Nations. The Mandatory Power is acting on behalf of the League and is responsible to the latter and must report to it.

In most of the Mandates, moreover, there will be provisions safeguarding the interests of all the other members of the League in the Mandated area.

Although the Principal-Allied and Associated Powers to whom the former German colonies were ceded by the Treaty of Versailles selected last year the states who were to act as Mandatories, their decision has never been embodied in a legal form. The Council has therefore asked for the official declaration of this point from the Principal Allies. When it has received this declaration and the proposals of the Allies with regard to the terms of the Mandates, and when the Mandates have been finally drawn up in binding legal form, it will still be necessary for the Council to set up a permanent Mandates Commission. If all this is to be done before the meeting of the Assembly in November, no time may be lost. There is no doubt that the Assembly will take a lively interest in the settlement which has been made with regard to Mandates, as every country in the world is directly or indirectly interested in the conditions and government of backward territories.

By the terms of Article 22 it is provided that "those colonies and territories which, as a consequence of the late war, have ceased to be under the States which formerly governed them and which are inhabited by peoples not yet able to stand by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world", shall be administered by Mandatory Powers acting "on behalf of the League", and assuming as "a sacred trust of civilisation", the responsibility for their well-being and development. By the Treaty of Versailles which came into force on January 10, 1920, all the late German colonies and overseas possessions "ceased to be under the sovereignty of the state which formerly governed them", and therefore came within/

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within the operation of Article 22.

The same Article also pledges Signatories of the Treaty of Versailles to apply a similar system to the Countries formerly part of the Turkish Empire when a settlement with Turkey has been arrived at.

Territories subject to Mandates are by the terms of the Covenant divided into three groups, viz., those inhabited by communities formerly under Turkish rule, the ex-German colonies of Central Africa, and the ex-German colonies in South-West Africa and the Pacific. The Mandates are consequently of three different types. The communities formerly under Turkish rule are regarded as capable of a large measure of self-government but require the advice and assistance of some other Power until they can stand alone, and in the choice of the Mandatory Power the wishes of the inhabitants of those territories "must be a principal consideration". The inhabitants of the ex-German colonies in Central Africa are in a more primitive state of civilisation, so that the Mandatory Power must be responsible for the administration over them in the interests of the inhabitants themselves; the colonies in South-West Africa and in the Pacific, being very thinly inhabited, far from all civilised centres or closely contiguous to territories of the Mandatory Power are to be administered by the same Power under its own laws and as an integral part of its territory, with guarantees provided for in the interests of the native inhabitants.



The following is a list of the books in the collection of the University of Toronto Library, which were acquired during the year 1920. The books are arranged in alphabetical order of the author's name. The list is divided into two parts, the first part containing the names of the authors and the second part containing the titles of the books. The books are arranged in alphabetical order of the author's name.

1. *The History of the United States of America*, by James Osgood Easton. New York: The Century Company, 1918. 2 vols. 8vo. \$12.00.

2. *The History of the United States of America*, by James Osgood Easton. New York: The Century Company, 1918. 2 vols. 8vo. \$12.00.

3. *The History of the United States of America*, by James Osgood Easton. New York: The Century Company, 1918. 2 vols. 8vo. \$12.00.

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5. *The History of the United States of America*, by James Osgood Easton. New York: The Century Company, 1918. 2 vols. 8vo. \$12.00.

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9. *The History of the United States of America*, by James Osgood Easton. New York: The Century Company, 1918. 2 vols. 8vo. \$12.00.

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